Leakage from an Oil Well in A. P.

1223. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an oil well in Andhra Pradesh started gushing out uncontrollably on March 20th:

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the leak has been causing great hardship to the nearby villagers;

(c) if so, whether the well has been plugged; and

(d) what concrete steps are proposed to be taken to prevent such accident in furture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) There was a blow-out in the Komarada-I gas well in Andhra Pradesh on 20-3-1993.

(b) and (c) About 350 families were evacuated temporarily as a precautionary measure. The blow out was controlled on 15-4-1993. To mitigate the hardship of affected people, relief measures were organised by ONGC.

(d) Monitoring of operations, inspections, checks and hydraulic checks have been further strengthened by ONGC.

Royalty on Crude Oil

1224. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee set up by Government to examine the question of royalty on crude oil and natural gas to the concerned States has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made together with Government's decision thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in submission of the report and the likely time when it will be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) After considering the recommendations of the Eswaran Committee and discussions with the State Government, the rate of royalty on crude oil has been fixed at Rs. 481/-per metric tonne for the period 1-4-1990 to 31-3-1993.

Second Pipeline Connecting Bombay High with the Coast

1225. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration for laying of another pipeline connecting Bombay High with the coast;

(b) if so, reasons which necessitated this action;

(c) what is the estimated cost, date of start of work and date of completion; and

(d) whether environmental clearance for this project has been obtained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

High Lead Content in Petrol

1226. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that petrol processed and marketed in India has abnormally high level of lead content;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the exhaust emission of petrol causes increase of lead content in human blood;

(c) whether Government are aware that only lead free petrol is being marketed in Japan for the last four decades; and

(d) if so, whether Government have plans to modify our processing facilities to eliminate the lead content in petrol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) As against the present permissible specifications of a maximum of 0.56 gms/litre of lead in petrol in India more than 90% petrol marketed in India has an average lead content below 0.30 gms/litre.